

Commander Flip Capistrano

A native of Florida, CDR Capistrano graduated in 1995 from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Biology/Oceanography. Upon commissioning, he served on the cutter THETIS home-ported in Key West, Florida as Assistant Navigator, Communications, and Deck Officer. He was subsequently assigned to Coast Guard Tactical Law Enforcement Team Gulf. As Officer-in-Charge of Law Enforcement Detachment 8C, he conducted counter-narcotics operations throughout the Caribbean Sea on U.S. allied naval warships. In 1998, he deployed to the Arabian Gulf in support of U.N. sanctions against Iraq. After selection to U.S. naval flight training in 1999 and designation as a Coast Guard HH-65 Dolphin helicopter pilot, he served at Coast Guard Air Station Atlantic City, New Jersey. Aside from standing duty as a Search and Rescue (SAR) pilot, he was the Law Enforcement and Homeland Security Officer in the midst of the September 11th attacks. Upon completion of training at the U.S. Naval Post-Graduate School, he later served as Flight Safety Officer. In 2005, he was assigned to Coast Guard Air Station Borinquen, Puerto Rico where he conducted SAR and alien migration interdiction operations. In addition, he served as Comptroller, Administration Officer, and Instructor Pilot. Selected to serve in the elite cadre of HH-65 instructors as a fleet standardization pilot, he was the Training Support Section Chief and Branch Operations Officer at Aviation Training Center, Mobile, Alabama in 2008.



In 2011, he was selected to be Coast Guard Liaison Officer to the Department of Homeland Security in the Office of Intelligence and Analysis in Washington DC. In this capacity, he leveraged Coast Guard Intelligence capabilities and was a conduit to information sharing among the intelligence community in support of homeland security in the maritime domain.

CDR Capistrano holds a Master of Science degree in Military Strategic Intelligence from American Military University. He continues studies in Joint Professional Military Education with the U.S. Naval War College. His personal awards include three Coast Guard Commendation Medals, two Coast Guard Achievement Medals, and four Coast Guard Letters of Commendation.